

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1896.

Presented to the SANITARY and SURVEYORS COMMITTEE of the URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL of ROYTON, on Monday, 22nd February, 1897, and published by order of the said Committee.

Area of District	-	-	-	-	2,112 Statute Acres.
Population (1891 Census)	-	-	-	-	13,395.
„ (present estimated)	-	-	-	-	14,200.
Death Rate	{ General, 22·5 per 1,000 Population estimated to middle of 1896. Infants (under 1 year of age), 227·7 per 1,000 Births registered.				

THOMAS BLEASDALE,

CLERK, ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Clerk's Office,

Town Hall, Royton.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROYTON.
1896.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

BEING AN

ACCOUNT OF THE SANITARY CONDITION

WITH

TABULATED STATEMENTS OF THE SICKNESS AND MORTALITY
OF THE DISTRICT.

RALPH YOUNG,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TO THE

Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee

— OF THE —

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYTON.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to submit to you my Second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District.

The general Death Rate for the year 1896 remains about the same, viz., 22·5 whilst the Birth Rate of 27·5 is a slight decrease on the average of previous years.

With regard to Infectious Disease one of the chief features of the year has been a severe epidemic of Measles which visited us during the first six months, and which proved most fatal during the second quarter. At present, however, Measles is not a notifiable disease, and its severity can only be estimated from the number of deaths directly attributed to it. Its pulmonary complications and sequelæ have no doubt contributed largely to the serious mortality amongst young children.

Scarlet Fever has also been very prevalent, indeed this disease is always more so than it ought to be, and as I have observed in my Report, I do not think anything short of actual removal to Hospital will have much effect in checking it. It would be well, therefore, if the Council could see their way to encourage the removal of cases of Scarlet Fever where the Sanitary surroundings are not exceptionally good or where the means of carrying out isolation are difficult.

Extracts from the Reports of your Inspectors are included in the statement.

Cases of Smallpox keep occurring, and if the Council would pass a resolution recommending the Board of Guardians to carry out the existing law with respect to vaccination I have no doubt the influence thus employed would have a beneficial effect in drawing public attention to the general neglect of useful preventive measures.

We have still many unpaved streets and the resulting stagnant pools and muddy accumulations are very objectionable and must be injurious to health.

The greater portion of the Ashpit refuse together with the Slaughter-house offal is burnt up by the Destructor.

The completion of the remaining portion of the Sewerage System awaits the decision of the Local Government Board in the matter of the borrowing powers of the Council, and respecting which an inquiry was held in February last.

The Sewage Disposal Works under the able supervision of your Superintendent are in excellent working order. The effluent continues bright and clear and the operations do not seem in any way impeded by the severe weather of winter.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RALPH YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

REPORT, 1896.



GENERAL STATISTICS.

In forming an estimate of the population, although the percentage of new houses built in the district during the year 1896 is small, it is as well to take the fact into consideration. Population.

I am indebted to your Surveyor for the information that of those completed, about 38 have been inhabited and are distributed as follows:—Dryclough Ward, 20; Dogford Ward, 2; Haggate Ward, 8; Thornham Ward, 8; about one-half perhaps of the tenants being removals only. It is usual also to allow 4·5 persons to each inhabited house. According to the Census Return for 1891 the population of the District of Royton was 13,395, and if we take into consideration as in last year's Report, the Statement issued by the District Council in 1894 together with the natural rate of increase of Births over Deaths, 14,200 may be set down as the nearest possible estimate of population to the middle of 1896. New houses inhabited.

This number forms the basis on which the various calculations are made and is distributed as follows:—

Thornham Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	848
Dogford Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3266
Haggate Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3402
Dryclough Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2530
Heyside Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4154
								<u>14,200</u>

The year 1896 shews a slight decline in the birth rate, 391 births have been registered during the year, viz., 186 males and 205 females, as against 408 in 1895, the rate per 1000 being 27·5 as against 29·1 in 1895. The average rate for five previous years was 30·2. Births.

The total registered deaths in the District numbered 320, or 140 males and 180 females, as against 285 in the year 1895, representing a mortality of 22·5 per 1000 living as against 22·3 in the previous year, so that the difference is very slight. It is, however, a little in excess of the previous five years which show an average of 19·8 per 1000. The second quarter of the year 1896 was that in which the mortality was greatest. Deaths.

At various
ages.

The number of deaths at stated age periods is shewn in Table A, from which it appears that the greatest number occur under the age of 5 years and from 65 years upwards.

Infant
Mortality.

The infant mortality of the District, especially in those under 1 year, is still excessive, 89, or 5 more than in 1895 having been registered during the year. The deaths of infants and children under 1 and under 5 years of age respectively from 1891 to 1896 inclusive is shewn in the following table :—

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Under 1 year	66	62	75	50	84	89
1 year and under 5 ...	47	42	43	31	45	50

Rate per
1,000.

In the year under report it is here seen that in those under one year we have a mortality of 227 ⁸⁹ per 1,000 registered births, and on further enquiry we find that the following are the causes assigned to the ~~91~~ deaths :

Pulmonary Diseases—

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Phthisis ...	...	23
Premature Birth ...	...	11
Diarrhoea and Diseases of Digestive Organs ...	...	20
Whooping Cough ...	...	5
Convulsions ...	...	12
Measles ...	...	8
Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	3
Other Causes ...	...	7
		<u>89</u>

The relatively large number of deaths due to diseases of the Pulmonary and Digestive Organs would go to shew that a large amount of preventable disease exists amongst young infants, and in all probability may be attributed to improper feeding or to the fact that many of the parents have to work in the mills, and entrust their babies to the care of inexperienced nurses. It is evident that more care and attention is necessary in the feeding and protection against severe weather of young infants than is usually given in the district.

It cannot therefore be too frequently impressed on mothers that human milk is the infant's natural food, and on this it will consequently thrive best ; that fresh cow's milk is the next best substitute, and that artificial foods should not be resorted to until after the others have failed, which it is pretty certain will not often happen if proper discretion be used.

The principal causes of death in the District and its different localities in the year 1896 have been as follows :

	Thornham	Dryclough	Heyside	Dogford	Haggate	Total.	Mortality in Specified Diseases.
Pneumonia.....	3	6	7	10	19	45	
Heart Disease	1	1	8	9	12	31	
Bronchitis	2	6	15	2	1	26	
Phthisis	1	5	1	9	8	24	
Measles	3	5	5	4	4	21	
Diseases of Digestive System	3	5	2	4	6	20	
„ Nervous System	3	3	5	3	3	17	
Urinary Diseases	1	7	1	3	3	15	
Premature Birth	1	3	3	3	4	14	
Convulsions.....	1	3	5	3	...	12	
Cancer .....	...	...	2	7	2	11	
Diarrhoea.....	2	2	3	...	3	10	
Injuries .....	...	2	4	1	2	9	
Old Age .....	...	2	1	4	2	9	
Whooping Cough	1	...	3	1	3	8	

The general mortality from all classes of disease in the different wards during the same year has been :—

	Deaths.	Per 1,000 Population in Ward.	Area in Acres.	Density per Acre.	In Specified Localities.
Thornham	27	31·8	740	1·14	
Haggate	82	24·1	304	11·19	
Dogford	71	21·7	280	11·66	
Dryclough	59	23·3	368	6·87	
Heyside	81	19·4	420	9·89	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number and
distribution.

The number of new cases of Infectious and Contagious Disease reported to the Medical Officer of Health, as occurring in the different wards of the District during the year 1896, is seen in the following Table :—

	1896.	Thornham.	Dogford.	Heyside.	Dryclough.	Haggate.
Scarlet Fever.....	59	1	6	14	13	25
Smallpox	13	...	4	3	...	6
Diphtheria	4	1	...	1	2	...
Membranous Croup ...	4	...	1	1	1	1
Enteric Fever	8	...	3	1	2	2
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	2	...	...
Erysipelas	15	2	5	2	4	2
	105	4	19	24	22	36

There has, therefore, been a marked improvement in this respect on the year 1895.

Compared
with previous
years.

Below is shewn the *general prevalence* of Infectious Disease in the District as a whole in comparison with five previous years :—

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Scarlet Fever.....	19	37	30	45	125	59
Smallpox .....	...	3	46	15	13	13
Diphtheria .....	...	5	8	20	12	4
Membranous Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	4
Enteric Fever	11	5	6	2	13	8
Puerperal Fever .....	...	2	...	2	4	2
Erysipelas	8	10	12	16	13	15
	38	62	102	100	180	105

Mortality
from Zymotic
Diseases.

Of the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, the mortality during the year under report has been : Scarlet Fever, 2 ; Diphtheria, 5 ; Measles, 21 ; Whooping Cough, 8 ; Smallpox, 0 ; Diarrhœa, 10 ; Fever (Typhus and Typhoid), 0 ; in all 46.

The number of deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases during the year 1896 and in each of the five previous years is shewn in the following Table :— Compared with previous years.

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Smallpox.....	...	...	4	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	1	3	...	2	2
Measles	15	11	9	1	1	21
Diphtheria	2	...	5	12	12	5
Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	6	20	1	1	12	8
Diarrhoea .....	...	...	...	...	6	10
	25	32	22	16	34	46

The death rate per 1000 from this class of disease is thus shewn to be 3·2. Per 1000
In the year 1895 it was 2·3, so that although the general prevalence as found from the number of cases reported, has been less than in that year, the mortality has been somewhat higher.

SPECIAL DISEASES.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1896 has been 59 or not quite half the number in the previous year. There is no doubt that the prompt attention given by your Inspector to each case as reported, especially in the way of the distribution of instructions as to disinfection and isolation, and the issue of notices to schools, &c., has been productive of these good results. Scarlet Fever.

A more complete record is obtained when on examination it is found that— Details.

In 3 households were 3 cases each	...	...	9
6 " " 2 "	...	...	12
84 " " 1 "	...	...	84
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	105
			<hr/>

Of the whole number only two died, so that the character of the disease was not more severe than usual.

The Fever was most prevalent in Haggate Ward, and during the second quarter of the year. It is, however, always endemic throughout the district owing to the great difficulty experienced in carrying out proper isolation in small cottage houses, and it is only by removal to Hospital that the disease can be kept under control, Period and distribution.

SMALLPOX.

Period and
distribution.

All the cases of Smallpox occurred during the first six months of the year, and the disease first made its appearance at Moss View amid very unsanitary surroundings and in Market Street. Prompt removal to Hospital had the effect of checking the spread of the epidemic. A fresh outbreak however commenced at the end of March in Mill Street where there were 3 cases in one house, and where the bad condition of the property is notorious.

All the other cases were within a very short radius of these two centres, and distributed over a period extending to the beginning of June, when the disease entirely disappeared.

Preventive
measures.

Wherever cases have occurred the other inmates of the house have been vaccinated, but, generally speaking, the practice of vaccination in the District has fallen into abeyance. Of the whole 13 cases, 11 were removed at once to Cinder Hill Hospital. In all cases the removals, the disinfection of materials, and the fumigation of households has been effectually carried out under the personal supervision of the Inspector. It may be added that Smallpox, having been entirely absent for a few years, appeared in 1892, when there were three cases, and it has been more or less present ever since that time, which is, no doubt, largely owing to the neglect of vaccination.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Number and
distribution.

The amount of Typhoid or Enteric Fever during the year 1896 has been comparatively insignificant, eight cases only having been reported. Four of these occurred during April and the beginning of May. The whole were some distance from each other, and, so far as could be ascertained, there does not seem to have been any feature pointing to a common origin. No case terminated fatally. The usual method of dealing with the excreta was adopted..

ERYSIPELAS.

Number.

Erysipelas, as in previous years, has been more prevalent than might be expected from the number and occupations of the people, 15 cases having been reported during the year, and was the cause of death in one instance—that of an aged patient.

Type and
probable
causes.

The contagious character of the disease was not conspicuous in any particular instance, but if it is borne in mind that the town is at a considerable elevation above the sea level, and much exposed to rain and bleak winds, the climatic conditions, it is evident, are favourable to the production and continuance of Erysipelas.

Systematic
Inspections.

From the Reports kindly supplied to me by your Veterinary Surgeon (who acts as Inspector of Meat and Slaughter Houses), and by the Inspector of Nuisances, the following information is gathered as to the details of the work done in their respective departments.

The Slaughter Houses have been frequently visited and inspected. Three require slight repairs to the floors, and two others are rather bad in this respect. One is altogether unsatisfactory, and the license should not be renewed. The remainder are fairly well kept and clean. Receptacles for the offal, excreta, &c., of slaughtered animals are now required to be provided with tight fitting covers. Slaughter houses.

The business of Tripe Boiling is carried on at four places. These have been frequently visited by your Veterinary officer and the Inspector, and have been found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory condition. Triperies and food inspection.

Occasionally the Inspector of Meat^h as found portions of uncooked tripe which have been unsatisfactory and these he has had destroyed. The kind and quality of meat exposed for sale in the butcher's shops in the District has been satisfactory.

During the year a regular inspection of the District resulted in 108 cases being reported to the Sanitary and Surveyor's Committee, viz. :— Nuisance Inspection.

Defective or Blocked Drainage	59	Details.
Dirty Closets, Yards, and Passages	...	...	...	8
Defective Ashpits, Cesspools and Urinals	...	...	...	15
Dirty Houses and Overcrowding	...	...	...	10
Defective Chimneys, &c.	...	...	...	7
Damp Houses and Offensive Smells...	9	
				108	

26 Notices were issued by the Committee, 33 others were written to or seen personally, with the result that with a few exceptions all the nuisances have been remedied. Action taken.

During the year 15 Cesspools have been abolished and 26 Sanitary Pans substituted.

The Bakehouses have been visited from time to time and found to be kept in a very clean and satisfactory condition. Bakehouses.

The Mills, Cutting Shops, and Bleach Works have been systematically inspected by the Officer of Health and the Inspector, and the Sanitary arrangements are satisfactory. Mills and Workshops.

(A)

TABLE OF DEATHS

During the year 1896 in the Royton Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS UNDER 5.														
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Influenza.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.	
Thornham Ward	27	5	6	3	2	6	5	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	1	3	1	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	6	11
Haggate Ward	82	24	9	3	4	29	13	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	1	...	4	3	2	1	...	2	10	12	2	11	33
Dogford Ward	71	14	10	5	3	28	11	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	1	...	4	1	...	1	...	1	7	9	1	12	24
Dryclough Ward	59	18	6	2	1	20	12	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	2	...	5	...	2	...	...	5	7	1	1	9	24
Heyside Ward	81	28	19	3	5	20	6	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	1	...	5	3	3	...	...	16	6	8	2	18	47
	320	89	50	16	15	103	47	{ Under 5 5 upwards	...	2	...	21	8	7	...	1	3	37	31	4	56	139
									...	2	1	...	...	3	1	...	34	31	5	81	181.	

RALPH YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

19th February, 1897.

